

Charity registration number 1134265

**THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST
CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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| Charity number | 1134265 |
| Principal address | Brunswick Methodist Church Brunswick Place Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE1 7BJ |
| Independent examiner | Robson Laidler Accountants Limited Fernwood House Fernwood Road Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2TJ |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank plc 102 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7BJ Central Finance Board of the Methodists Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE |
| Solicitors | Sintons LLP The Cube Barrack Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB |
| Surveyors and Valuers | Lambert Smith Hampton 41-51 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6DB |
| Custodian Trustees | The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 5JQ |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Rev A D Mabbs
V Choi
D W Thornton - resigned 12.06.23
J C Kelsall
K A Brindley - resigned 18.12.22
P H Martin
Rev J M Thornton - resigned 12.06.23
T F Rogers
W F Filmer
A Ilderton
R E Bourne
T Yip - resigned 31.05.23
R Lai - Appointed 31.05.23
E Leung - resigned 15.11.23
A Lambert - resigned 24.10.22
P Short - appointed 24.10.22
J Keltie
Deacon A Carter
Deacon T Hume
A Nicholson
R Taglione
R Wilkinson - resigned 24.05.23
A Wilkinson
L Lawson - resigned 21.05.23
M Burdon - appointed 21.05.23
J Shuen
J Atherton
D Lowry
M S Ball
R Ward
E Fellows
Rev A F Moorhouse
D Pigeon
N Pigeon
A Weightman - resigned 18.12.22
K Stewart
P Newman - resigned 12.01.23
Rev G R Hume
Rev P D Cleever-Thorpe (Chair)
Revd Professor D A Wilkinson
Rev J Mooney
Rev M A Newman - resigned 12.01.23
Revd A Wilkinson
R Pickard
Deacon G I Morgan
M E Graham
C L Eke
D J Cowans
K I Gilfillan
I Leung
S M Fuller - resigned 01.09.23
H J Chapman

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

L Morley
M E Goldfinch - resigned 11.09.22
J G Patrick
Rev K M Reader
J Bell
C Brindley - resigned 18.12.22
S D Richardson
S Walker
A Barker
J Anderson
D A Stabler
C Hall
S Hutchinson
M Harrison - appointed 13.09.22

Circuit Stewards

The Circuit Stewards, who are the treasurers of the Circuit fund, who served during the year and until the date of this report were as follows:

Margaret Graham (Finance)

Carolyn Hall

Keith Gilfillan J.P.

Audrey Ilderton (Senior Circuit Steward)

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Trustees' report | 1 - 16 |
| Independent examiner's report | 17 |
| Statement of financial activities | 18 - 19 |
| Balance sheet | 20 |
| Statement of cash flows | 21 |
| Notes to the financial statements | 22 - 34 |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

PREAMBLE

The Methodist Church is said to have been created after John Wesley's conversion on 24th May 1738; it is a Free Church. The Newcastle Central and East Circuit came into being on 1st September 2009 at the merger of the former Newcastle Heaton & Wallsend and Newcastle Brunswick Central Circuits. The latter was, in itself, formed from a merger in the early 1970's from the Brunswick and Central & Sandyford Circuits.

The calling of The Methodist Church is:

Worship: to increase awareness of God's Presence and celebrate God's love.

Learning and caring: to help people to grow and learn as Christians.

Service: to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

Evangelism: we make more followers of Jesus Christ.

The Circuit's Vision Statement, agreed in May 2023, is as follows:

"Our vision is to be a Circuit of welcoming churches who look to reach and serve our communities, foster values of inclusion and acceptance, nurture and equip our preachers, leaders of worship and lay leaders, and who work in partnership with others to make God's love tangible and accessible to all".

We commit to worship, pray together and celebrate our good news stories; to review our local ministry and mission annually; to identify key strengths and challenges; and to form plans not just for future sustainability but also to include strategies for growth.

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

The Circuit is constituted to advance the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist Churches in the Circuit, the District and Connexion, to Churches of other denominations and to participation in the communities served by the Circuit and in ecumenical work in the area. The Constitution and Enumeration of Circuits is set out year by year in the Stations appointed by the Methodist Conference.

The public benefit can be clearly demonstrated by the Trustees as they have fulfilled the calling of the Methodist Church in maintaining the witness of the church throughout the area which the Circuit serves in parts of Newcastle and North Tyneside. The grants made have enabled the work to continue and people to develop themselves and grow in faith.

The Circuit continues to fulfil its basic role of providing ministers to be in pastoral charge of the Societies (Local Churches) which make up the Circuit and support the churches in various ways including providing financial help for their work. We provide ministers with manses (two manses are owned by The United Reformed Church, Northern Synod) and see that, through the Methodist Church and United Reformed Church Central Services, they are paid their stipends and allowances. Those manses not immediately required have been let on assured short hold leases.

During the year under review, our small team of four Circuit Stewards have managed their various tasks and responsibilities, guided as needed by the CPD (Constitutional Practice and Discipline): see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/governance/cpd/>. The Circuit Leadership Team is comprised of all ministers in the Circuit and the Circuit Stewards. The Superintendent Minister and the Stewards meet monthly and the Circuit Leadership Team meets bi-monthly.

The Circuit Stewards are the Lay Leaders of The Circuit. They are Managing Trustees, as are all members of The Circuit Meeting, and as Stewards they are responsible for managing the day-to-day operation of all Circuit affairs in consultation with the Superintendent Minister. The Circuit Meeting (Managing Trustees) meet three times in the year.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The life, work, and ministry of the Circuit is underpinned by prayer, public worship and personal commitment to follow Christ. We continue to base our Circuit's mission and our churches growth plans upon the four aspects of 'Our Calling' of The Methodist Church: 'Worship', 'Service', 'Learning & Caring' & 'Evangelism'.

Our churches have continued to explore and develop new ways of worship, learning and caring, introduced during 2020-2021 due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, often in an on-line context as well as face-to-face gatherings. Whilst this is difficult for those who are less able to access on-line worship and other activities, churches who have been able to expand their on-line presence have continued to see significant numbers of new people engaging with their church's life. This is very encouraging to witness.

Sadly, another of our Societies, Coxlodge Methodist Church, requested to 'cease to meet' in September 2022. This request was granted and so the final service of the Church was held in December 2022, followed by a Celebration Service in February 2023. Our hope at that point was that Christian worship and witness would continue on the site or that it could be used for community work. Happily, we have been able to lease the building to a Community Interest Company, Owl Tree Children's Café (<https://theowltreechildrenscafe.co.uk/>). The arrangement brings in some welcome rental income which is earmarked for mission related activity elsewhere within the Circuit.

There were a few changes to Circuit office holders, as noted in the minutes of our Circuit Meetings. The Circuit is also served by Ministers of other traditions. The Circuit now contributes an annual assessment to The United Reformed Church Northern Synod, to cover the stipends and other expenses of ministry of the two URC ministers stationed in the Circuit.

The Circuit continues to be blessed with the continuing ministry of our Supernumeraries; thanks go to Revd Malcolm Newman, Revd Derek Aldridge, Revd Susan Richardson and Revd Ann Shepherdson. Local Preachers and Worship Leaders continue to serve the Circuit in their calling. There were four preachers in training, at various stages, during the year: two on trial, one of whom is now candidating for presbyteral ministry; one who has failed to complete his training and has now been removed from the plan; and one who had paused her training but is now back on note.

The Circuit Leadership Team have not led a specific annual review of our Churches and projects, as required by the Annual Conference of The Methodist Church. Growth or end of life plans were still not feasible, as our churches continued to recover from the pandemic restrictions. However, we were able to review our vision at the February 2023's Circuit Meeting, resulting in a revised Vision statement as outlined above.

CIRCUIT POLICIES

All policies conform as appropriate with guidance and principles as stipulated by the Methodist Church (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>).

RISK POLICY

Our Risk Policy covers the following areas:

Financial Risk

The Circuit Meeting is faced with the following financial risks:

- dependency on limited income sources (assessments, investment income and donations);
- managing the capital resources;
- fluctuations in investment income and rental income;
- inability to attract additional donations from the general public and members;
- an unforeseen rise in demand for expenditure (for example on Manses and Chapels);
- an unforeseen increase in the actuarial shortfall on the pension funds for which the Circuit Meeting could be deemed responsible (the Circuit has already contributed to a shortfall);
- an unforeseen increase in the requirement for an additional manse or other property;
- a sustained fall in the value of investments and property held by the Circuit and appearing in the balance sheet.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Operation, Reputation and Strategy

We have identified the most significant risks as follows:

- inability to create new Methodist disciples resulting in further decline, ultimately resulting in the Methodist Church ceasing to exist;
- failure to provide adequate resources that enable the Circuit Meeting to discharge its responsibilities;
- the experience of Our Calling fails to be integrated into the mission and ministry pathways of the Circuit;
- sudden change in policy or strategic direction enforced by The Circuit Meeting;
- dependency on limited income sources (Assessments, investment income and donations);
- the impact of economic fluctuations on our assets, liabilities and our ability to raise funds to enable us to continue our work;
- an unforeseen increase in the actuarial shortfall on the pension funds for which the Circuit Meeting could be deemed responsible;
- loss of key personnel;
- the continuing effects of 'Brexit' and the coronavirus pandemic;
- we have a large number of lay employees but no Circuit HR Officer.

Many of these risks are likely to remain equally relevant throughout 2023 and beyond.

Risk management

The Methodist Church in Great Britain has a risk management policy, which has been set by the Methodist Council for use both by the Trustees and by Circuits.

The risk management policy is designed to identify and analyse key strategic and operational risks facing the Methodist Church and, where at unacceptable levels, to take steps to mitigate the risks.

We define key strategic and operational risks as those that, without effective or appropriate mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a positive or negative impact on the Church's ability to fulfil its purpose of advancing the Christian faith in accordance with its doctrinal standards. These risks are reported to the Managing Trustees through a risk management process, which allows them both to challenge any assumptions the Circuit Leadership team has made about risks and also to understand the context in which decisions are taken. This helps to ensure that the most serious risks are being managed effectively.

The trustees recognise that it is neither possible nor appropriate to seek to eliminate risk entirely. We recognise that risk-taking is inherent within the task of communicating the Gospel; John Wesley himself took risks in establishing the Methodist communities.

Our task, therefore, is to embrace risks that aim to advance the Church's purposes while ensuring that we avoid or minimise those risks that might have a negative impact. Effective risk management processes will help to increase the likelihood of the Church fulfilling its mission. The risk management report is reviewed and revised annually.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Since 2019-2020, the Circuit had built up significant reserves, generated from the sale of West Moor, Allen Memorial, Longbenton and Heaton Methodist Churches and the Burn Terrace flats. The Circuit's free reserves in August 2023 were £1.4million.

The Circuit Meeting (Trustees) had discussed and considered the notion of investing a significant part of the free reserves, over a couple of meetings. At the May 2022 meeting it was agreed to invest £750,000 in the Central Finance Board (CFB) Managed Mixed Fund which had shown a positive return over a long period. See <https://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk/managedfunds/>.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The decision of the Trustees was based on the following considerations:

1. The Circuit Meeting has a responsibility, as far as is possible, to protect, manage and conserve the capital for future mission and ministry.
2. The Charities Commission has provided guidance to Charities, seeking to invest cash funds. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-investment-matters-a-guide-for-trustees-cc14>
3. The proposed fund for our investment – The Managed Mixed Fund – is a medium risk investment (that is risk 5 on the scale 0-10).
4. There is much evidence to be confident that the CFB Managed Mixed Fund is both an ethical and a sound medium risk investment. See also the CFB ethics page: <https://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk/ethics/> which indicates their ethical policy regarding investments.
5. The staff at the CFB are all salaried employees and are not paid on commission or performance.
6. If the Circuit Meeting wishes to draw from capital that is held in the CFB Managed Mixed Fund then it is possible to do this with about two weeks notice.
7. Interest received from the investments will be used to fund mission and ministry within the Circuit.
8. This will be an investment for the long term and will be reviewed regularly.

PAYMENTS TO STAFF

Ministers

Stipends for Methodist Ministers are determined annually by the Methodist Conference. The Circuit, as the employing body, contributes to their pension fund. They are also given an annual computer allowance.

Lay employees

In 2010 the Methodist Conference agreed that the rates of the Real Living Wage, as published by the [Living Wage Foundation](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/employees-and-volunteers/lay-employment-resource/), should form the minimum basic salary for people employed by a district, circuit or a local church. This policy also includes young people below the age of 18. In addition, a 9-point salary scale is applied to a person specification, which is based on qualifications, experience and responsibilities. The Circuit is scrupulous in following this policy. Guidelines are available on the Methodist Church website. See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/employees-and-volunteers/lay-employment-resource/>

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The circuit's safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and presented at the February Circuit Meeting. All managing trustees are regularly reminded of their responsibilities. The circuit takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously, ensuring every church/project is aware of and adheres to its responsibilities, such as displaying its policy, updating its safeguarding information, reviewing its safeguarding policy on an annual basis, and retaining its records in accordance with proper guidelines. We appoint a Circuit Safeguarding Officer who works closely with the Circuit Superintendent, Circuit Administrator, and Circuit Stewards to ensure that our safeguarding responsibilities are reviewed on a regular basis.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Regular meetings are held with all Church Safeguarding Officers and the Circuit Stewards, to remind them of the forms/declarations which all volunteers need to sign, depending on their individual roles, together with the training which they need to undertake. DBS checks are required for any volunteer whose work brings them into contact with users of our services and projects and the general public.

COMPLAINTS HANDLING

It is hoped that any conflict situations will be dealt with sensitively by leaders of our local church groups. However, where this is not possible then the Methodist Complaints process will need to be invoked. This will require contact being made with the Local Complaints Officer who is our Circuit Superintendent Minister, Revd Paul Cleever-Thorpe. The process would then be put into effect with the appropriate support being given by our District Reconciliation group.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To comply with Methodist Church guidance, Trustees are asked at the Circuit Meeting to declare any conflict of interest as soon as they are aware of any possibility that his or her personal or wider interests could influence decision-making within the Circuit. This is a standard agenda item at the beginning of each meeting to allow trustees to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

GRANTMAKING POLICY

The Circuit meeting is minded to make occasional grants from one of the funds. These grants are discretionary and full details are given in the accounts. The funds are:

- The general fund, for example grants to the District Benevolence fund.
- The Model Trust [formerly the Circuit Advance Fund] is exhausted.
- The District City Centre Fund, this is used in the same way as a Model Trust - it is controlled by the Managing Trustees of the District.
- The Susannah Gibson Memorial Fund – grants were awarded for "the sustenance of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers" - no grants have been awarded for a number of years.
- The Doris Nuttall bequest - funds were to be used at the discretion of the Circuit Meeting, but in practice money is used at and on the former South Gosforth Methodist Church – now known as the Trinity Christian Community Centre - which Doris Nuttall attended. The funds in this Trust were exhausted in 2022-2023, and it was closed.
- The Elizabeth Ann Burton bequest - money was left to the former Willington Quay Methodist Church. The Circuit subsequently obtained a Charity Commission Order which allows it to control all the assets of the bequest. It should be noted that, although Mrs Burton passed away in 1972, it was only in February 2011 that the Circuit became aware that there was a substantial sum of money and two Tyneside flats to be transferred to the Circuit. The flats were refurbished and were let to people in need, via the charity Oasis Aquila. Due to problems with the maintenance of the flats, it was decided to sell them in 2020. The proceeds of the sale (£110,028) were received in November 2021 and are to be used for mission in the Circuit.
- Bequest funds – these are various small funds that may be used at the discretion of the Circuit meeting, for mission.
- The Deacons' Fund - this fund was created by a vote at the Spring Circuit Meeting 2019, by agreeing to bring together the three remaining small Model Trusts and the balance of the general fund of the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church. In order to achieve this, a Charity Commission Order has been obtained and in the case of trust 1486 the Methodist Council voted to approve the transfer of the W R Dixon gift to the Deacons' Fund. Trust 1486 is a permanent endowment; Trust 5377, capital and income can be used; and Trust 5377B, income can be used and the capital with restrictions. In practice, it is the intention that a Deacon can use the income only, for work in the Wallsend area at their discretion.

There is a further fund which is held and used to maintain the manses and other property owned by the Circuit and two manses owned by the United Reformed Church.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Brunswick Methodist Church

Brunswick Methodist Church continues to be a church worshipping and serving at the heart of Newcastle City Centre. In acting as a 'community hub', our building plays host to an increasing number of user groups. We are thankful to both our paid staff and to all our dedicated volunteers who enable our church to be a safe and hospitable space. Our church building is well maintained and an attractive location for groups to meet within.

In recognition of how our church works in partnership with agencies and charities who serve the most vulnerable in our city, in October 2022 our church building was chosen as part of a royal visit made by the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, who was keen to meet representatives of community groups working in our city centre. This visit was veiled in secrecy for security reasons, but we were still able to give the Earl a warm welcome and to allow him time to interact with our Coffee Shop volunteers, as well as meeting with staff from organisations like 'Junction 42' and 'Changing Lives' who work with ex-offenders and with recovering addicts respectively.

The 'open door' policy which undergirds Brunswick Methodist Church's ministry and mission is aided by our Coffee Shop which, over the past year, has been open on four days each week. We have seen a gradual increase in the number of customers accessing our Coffee Shop which has also meant a higher level of income generated for the church and its mission. A new, larger visible sign has been purchased and this helps to raise awareness of the Coffee Shop during its opening hours.

Our 'Listening Post', a non-appointment based one-to-one listening service, continues to be run for one day each week with several people accessing this service during the year.

We also opened our doors through the winter months in a positive response to the cost-of-living crisis, with our building being one of the City Centre's 'Winter Wellbeing Hubs' or 'Warm Spaces'. This is a weekly, afternoon 'space' in which we have offered refreshments and a listening ear to any who may wish to save on their home energy bills.

Brunswick Methodist Church is pleased to host two congregations, the second of which is a Chinese/Hong Konger congregation. Over the past three years, over two hundred new people have joined, the majority of whom have moved from Hong Kong under the government's BNO+1 programme. This larger congregation has meant requests being made for weddings held in our church and for a greater usage of our building, especially on a Saturday and Sunday, by small groups, which includes many students and younger adults. Both Cantonese and Mandarin languages are used within our Chinese congregation, but many are wishing to use and to learn English more as they seek to integrate into UK society and into our Methodist Church and Circuit.

In our traditional congregation we have run a church membership group during the past year and, in this coming October, we will welcome four new members into our church family. This is always a joyous time! Our Church Leadership Team has begun to meet with those lay leaders now serving in our Chinese Methodist congregation as we seek to work more closely and explore common areas of worship, witness, and service. In this way we are evolving into a more international, multi-cultural church.

Over the past year our Centre-Based worker has completed a Community Audit which has provided the church with more up-to-date information concerning the needs of communities in and close to our city centre. The specific needs identified have been around mental health and wellbeing, support to the growing student population, an increased use of our local foodbanks, a need for greater coordination and cooperation by those agencies seeking to alleviate homelessness and rough sleeping in our city. This last number is significantly less since the pandemic.

Brunswick has continued to offer warm hospitality to those from many different parts of the world, including international students, running language courses in our building and offering pastoral support through university chaplaincy.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Newcastle Chinese Methodist Church

The growth and development of the Chinese church this year, overall has been positive and constructive. In January 2023 we celebrated with 65 new members who were welcomed into the life of our church. This increased our total membership to over 100 members but we have almost 200 who may attend on any given Sunday.

The theme of the church this year has been centered around "Training Disciples to Follow Jesus," aiming for members to emulate the life of Jesus Christ and practice His teachings. Currently, there is an adult fellowship in the church, and beneath it, there are 8 small groups, each led by a married couple. Each small group consists of around ten to fifteen members, and when a group reaches 20 members, it splits.

The content of our small groups includes song sharing, Bible sharing, sermon responses, testimony sharing, spiritual sharing, etc. Through the life of these small groups, the goal is to deepen members' sense of belonging to the church and to foster healthy friendships and church life, becoming companions on the journey of faith and to grow in Christian discipleship.

Additionally, there are three classes in the children's Sunday school, with ages ranging from 5 to 10 years old, totaling 20 children. The primary languages used are Cantonese and English.

The youth fellowship comprises approximately fifty members, aged from 11 to 18, meeting twice a month. The activities include worship and praise, Bible teachings by pastors and mentors, group games, and more. In terms of adult worship, it is gradually maturing, progressing in a positive direction. Finally, we have a 'TAP' (Teach and Pray) group for our students and young adults which is around 20-25 in total.

Our church faces a significant potential challenge as the majority of members are from Hong Kong, and there are various denominations within Hong Kong Christianity, such as Baptist, Evangelical, Anglican, Pentecostal, and some independent churches. Each denomination wishes the church to follow their model of operation. Therefore, there are diverse opinions on this matter, and the church is actively seeking positive solutions to address this issue.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill

(Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Church (URC) Local Ecumenical Partnership)

Our ongoing commitment to spread the Good News of Jesus in Battle Hill and beyond is apparent in our church and was clear with our 40th Anniversary Celebration Service in April 2022. It was so lovely to be joined by so many people whose lives have been supported and touched by God through our church. Regular weekly worship services, including live streaming, continue and our worshipping community is growing with new members attending. At Christmas 2022 our church was once again full of worshippers, in particular for the Christmas Eve Christingle service. Good use of social media is helping to extend invitations to our services and events, as is handing out invitations at mission events, including carol singing at the local shops and handing out sweets and prayers at Halloween. In our partnership of Wallsend Churches Working Together we have delivered Open the Book School Assemblies (Bible stories) to over 3,000 children during the year.

We have developed a close relationship with the local care home through visits from our Minister and regular monthly sacramental worship. Residents and staff now attend church events such as the fair and music/social nights.

Little Shepherds Baby and Toddler Group continues to thrive and build wonderful relationships. The Christian input is intentional, our Minister attends weekly and offers pastoral support. One of the highlights of each session is the Bubble Prayers.

Hot Chocolate Youth Group (with gentle and appropriate Christian input) continues to reach the youth in the community and offers a variety of activities, a listening and guidance role, and a safe space for young people to gather. This has helped reduce anti-social behaviour in the area.

As one of the founding members of Rising Sun Neighbours (a small group of churches reaching out to people from new housing estates around the Rising Sun Country Park) we actively took part in the Summer Festival, engaging families through crafts and distributing church information/invitations.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

We started a number of new initiatives this year which have successfully engaged people who do not normally worship in church. In addition, these events have proved very successful in offering fellowship to our church members as well as the wider community.

Following our "Chill out with a cuppa" project in the summer of 2022 we opened up a weekly 'Warm Space' from November to March, supported by a £1,000 grant from North Tyneside Council. The number of people attending each week varied from single figures to mid 30's and everyone appreciated the fellowship as well as the free food, drinks and games.

Kidz Rock started at Pentecost as a way in which we could continue to engage with our toddlers once they moved on to school, and also engage with families in the community. It is run on Sundays at 4pm every two months and includes Bible stories, games, crafts, puppet show and lots of fun, all followed by light refreshments. This has been very successful and helped us reach out to 'new' people.

We started Open Mic Nights every few months from March. This is a wonderful night of fellowship and outreach and is well supported by church members, friends and people from the community.

The generosity of church members has helped us pay all our financial commitments in our three-way LEP. Furthermore, we have donated £1,500 to a number of charities and continue to support Walking With North Tyneside and Fairshare St Paul's, Willington Quay, through weekly food donations and volunteers.

We are thrilled to report that we were awarded a Bronze Certificate which reflects the way in which we are caring for our creation and church.

Jesmond Methodist Church

The congregation at Jesmond continues to grow. This past year we have welcomed some new students, along with young adults and older members. The flourishing family ministry continues as JMK (Jesmond Methodist Kids).

It has been a year of challenges with our building – and we have had to spend money on the external back wall, boiler, internal decoration of corridor and toilets. We have been grateful for the support of the Circuit. We continued to plan and work towards building a new kitchen and changing the external doors which we hope will be completed early on 2023-2024.

We began to explore the relationship between Jesmond Methodist Church and Shieldfield, partly through links with JMC's Play Space, the Saturday morning space for refugee families, residing in a nearby hotel. The church began to explore links and ways we could collaborate together. Could we church plant? What are the initial steps and how do we take this forward? It was agreed to release the Lay Pastor for one day a week in the next year, to see what might develop and grow.

Our minister had a significant time off with stress and exhaustion and our Lay Pastor stepped up into a new leadership role to help cover this.

JMC was also very active in the annual Jesmond Festival, hosting a Disney Quiz, a climate conversation panel discussion, and our Taste event which is always very popular. The climate conversation enabled us to foster links with Northumbria University Environmental Sciences Department. This has resulted in having a small team of Masters students come to undertake a project in how we could move to net zero as a church.

The Church has continued to work with the 1901 Café which leases part of the building.

We set up an Eco Working Group which has begun to work with church members in ways we can reduce our carbon footprint and be more aware of the resources we use. They are exploring how we might be able to become an eco-church.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The five bible study groups are thriving, along with a new daytime student group, which seems to fit their timetables better than evenings. We also have had a focus on prayer for 2023 – with a prayer event or challenge on the 23rd of each month.

A highlight of the year was undoubtedly the baptisms on Easter Sunday. Two candidates braved the freezing water of a portable baptismal pool to be baptised. The celebration shared with family and friends was a real joyful occasion.

JMC has faced challenges but has seen growth as new people are drawn into the community. Space remains an issue and different ways of configuring the chairs to ensure we can get everyone in remains a joyful challenge. We continue to flourish with the support of many who serve in voluntary ways in leadership including the Welcome team, Hosting, Preaching, Technical support, Musicians, Running house groups, and JMK teachers.

St Andrew's Church, Benton (Methodist and URC LEP)

We have continued to provide a rich and varied worship experience over this last year. We have been delighted to welcome many new friends to share worship with us including a small family of refugees from Iran. We have also returned to offering free refreshments after our Sunday morning service to which all are welcome.

In addition to the indoor worship, we also take advantage of our church grounds at various points in the year to offer outdoor worship – reaching out to those who pass by, or who find it difficult to cross the threshold of the church building. We also continue to provide regular online worship, as well as a monthly midweek worship and fellowship.

Apart from the ongoing work of our minister, the church has a team of volunteer pastoral carers who each take responsibility to help and keep in touch with a number of our people on a regular basis. Other volunteers deliver flowers each week when we become aware of someone being unwell or in need of support and sometimes to celebrate a happy event.

Junior church is currently led by two dedicated and accredited church volunteers, with more volunteers expected to join the team soon. The number of children attending Junior Church continues to fluctuate and there is a wide age range.

Links with the cradle roll and junior church families are maintained during school holidays by the delivery of age relevant bible-based activity packs, greetings cards and seasonal treats.

Currently we have ten families who have children on the cradle roll with whom we keep in touch. They receive the church magazine and the children receive birthday, Easter, and Christmas cards. During the year our minister officiated at three infant baptisms and two infant blessing/thanksgiving services. Our cradle roll secretary encourages the families and children to attend relevant church services or events that will help them on their Christian journey.

At the end of the year the membership numbers were calculated to be just over 100 divided between Methodist, United Reformed and joint members, who entered membership after the LEP was formed. We are normally blessed to have a full congregation of over 70 attendees at Sunday morning services.

We are blessed to have a dedicated editor who puts together a church magazine on ten occasions each year covering the whole year. The magazine has been a part of church life for many decades and is appreciated by many inside and outside of the church far and wide.

Messy Church meetings are an important part of church life in reaching out beyond our regular attendees once every few months. One of our church based groups, the 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade regularly meet in the church each week. The group is growing in number and is run by an enthusiastic group of trained volunteer leaders. Our other church based group, the Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club also meet each week in one of the church halls with a good mix of church members and locals from the community.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The church supports 'Walking Within North Tyneside' every week with donations of food and other items to support and relieve the hardship of asylum seekers or refugees who reside in North Tyneside and within our local community. Other charities and causes are supported at different times during the year.

Many from the church participated in the Christmas knitted angels outreach project. Over 1000 angels were distributed by the churches in our area, providing blessing and encouragement to those who received them.

The premises are also well used by many external groups and some have been carrying out their activities in the church for many years and are well known in the local communities.

As well as routine maintenance on the building, the church is seeking to make the building more energy efficient, with an initial focus on renewing older windows with double glazed units.

St Cuthbert's Church, Heaton (Methodist and URC LEP)

This year has again been quite a difficult year with the continued sick leave of our minister, Rev Grant Wilson. We have been drifting a bit without definite leadership.

The one group which continues to flourish is the Wives & Friends which, after starting again after lockdown, changed the time of their meetings to alternate Tuesday afternoons from the evening. This means that the members (most of whom are old) are able to enjoy mixing with others and then go home before dark. There are around 20 members most afternoons.

We have enjoyed the fellowship of an afternoon tea celebrating the coronation of King Charles and some other similar events.

The Girl's Brigade is still meeting on Monday evenings although their numbers are not as high as previous years.

The building is still being used by Newcastle Christian Tabernacle on two evenings each week and on Sunday afternoons. St Cuthbert's are still part of Heaton Churches Together and the joint service to celebrate the life of the Queen was well attended by members of St Cuthbert's.

The church gardens at the side of the church, which are maintained by two of our congregation, are still appreciated by the local community who, it seems, still think of St Cuthbert's as "their church" even though not many of them attend church services.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee the church agreed to undertake the necessary repairs to the building as highlighted in the 2019 quinquennial survey. Although the church had to utilise an extensive amount of its reserves to cover the cost of the repairs, we were grateful to be awarded funds from various grant making bodies, including the Circuit.

Church of St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park (Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and URC LEP)

This has been a year of steady progress. Though recorded membership is slightly lower, actual attendance at services has increased through the year. We have begun an initiative to encourage new attendees to become members.

Having reviewed their effectiveness, we have decided to end the online versions of our services, though we may still opt to upload special services. We have expanded our Bible study both online via Zoom and in person. This has been received positively with increased attendance.

We have continued to offer a range of outreach events to the community including successful Easter egg hunt and Harvest activities, which were combined with Messy Church sessions. We will again hold our community carol singing event at Tesco. The choir, and others, will be carol singing at Marks & Spencer & Tesco to raise funds for West End Refugees and Action for Children. Members have been very active in the collection of shoeboxes from across Northumberland and north Durham.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Our commitment to providing a Warm Space, to help those struggling with rising energy costs, re-started in September.

In line with our net-zero commitment, we completed the installation of solar panels and we are starting to see the benefit in terms of reduced electricity usage. We are also beginning to look at options for upgrade/renewal of our heating systems.

Our bookings have improved throughout the year and we are blessed to have been able to accommodate new groups, the activities for which have placed St John's at the centre of our community.

We are currently in the process of looking at our options for ministry at St John's to fill the vacancy following the departure of our Methodist minister in 2024.

Trinity Church, Gosforth (Methodist and URC LEP)

Trinity Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

"The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian faith in the area of benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches."

We benefit from our prominent location on Gosforth High Street. Every Sunday there are newcomers in worship, and we aim to provide a hospitable welcome and spiritual support to all. We have taken steps to make our worship more accessible. For example, providing large-print hymn books for people who have difficulty reading words from the screens. We stream our services on YouTube, with between 50 and 100 weekly views. Additionally, a printed service is posted out every week to about 25 housebound members without internet access. In-person attendance at Sunday morning worship averages 100.

Christmas 2022 was the first festival since lockdown without any Covid restrictions. Our carol service, children's crib service, and Christmas Day celebration were all well-attended, including many visitors. Easter was similarly celebrated with enthusiasm and joy.

Our ministry with children and young people continues to thrive, ably facilitated by our part-time Children and Families Worker. We have enjoyed welcoming class visits from nearby schools. Our popular Toddler Group always has a waiting list. Our Sunday evening youth group is now well-established again after lockdown. Two of our teens have enjoyed Christian holidays run by the United Reformed Church Northern Synod's youth advisor, and one is attending a young leaders' course. Several of our families went to the Cedarwood Festival in July, supported by a grant from Northern Synod.

Our various groups and activities for adults are also doing well. In response to the cost-of-living crisis and the social isolation in our community, we opened up a Warm Welcome Space on Friday mornings in September 2022. Most of the people who come are connected with the Church, but there are often others who come in for a warm drink and some company. This provision will continue through the coming winter. A Men's Shed has been operational for a couple of years and has undergone a successful transition into a space that is inclusive of both genders. The number of attendees is rising slowly, indicative of the Shed's growing appeal. The group has visited local craft workshops and attended a local maker's market at Axminster Tools. The junior woodcrafters have been meeting on a fortnightly basis.

Use of our Community Centre grew during the year and is back at pre-covid levels. We enjoy a good relationship with our hirers, most of whom are community-based groups or businesses, and we view the hospitality we give in our well-appointed and serviced rooms as an expression of our faith and mission. Caffè 1901 provides a welcoming introduction to the Centre. They started opening on Sundays in 2022, so Trinity's door is now open seven days a week. About 2,500 people come into Trinity in a typical week, and another 250 at Trinity Christian Community Centre in South Gosforth.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trinity, both Church and Centre, values the participation of dozens of volunteers, who give a huge amount of their time and skills in a variety of ways, including Young Church, music, welcoming, catering, leading Bible-study groups, pastoral care, buildings maintenance and much more.

Church finances are always challenging, but our members continue to give generously. We covered all payments in the year, including £4,105 to local charities, agreed by Church Council. Also, from specified members' giving we raised £8,483 for the Walker & District Foodbank.

It has been a good year for Trinity. We don't take this for granted but continually look to God to lead and equip us to fulfil our purpose (i.e. God's purpose) in the coming years.

Trinity Methodist Church, Wallsend

The congregation on Sundays is fairly constant with an average of 20– 25. We continue to record worship which goes out on the YouTube channel. What has been lovely this year is the amount of feedback we have received from the people who watch each week ... they feel connected and part of the church family. We have introduced Family News into the service. This enables people to hear about what is happening and offers opportunity for sharing how God is at work in people's lives.

Our church hall continues to be used by Scouts, Bloom Babies and Line Dancing. There is an appreciation of the facilities on offer. The Tea Dance now run as a church group and is well received by those who attend. It provides a social gathering in a warm space and dancing which, as the folk who go say, 'keeps us active.'

We have an active Girls Brigade Group. Numbers are small but a full programme of activities are offered. The Girls Brigade leaders work hard to enable the girls to reach their full potential. One of the leaders was awarded an MBE for her services to Girls Brigade. The Youth Club regularly has about 30 young people attending each week. There is nowhere for young people to go in Wallsend, so this is a much-needed service. These groups rely on volunteers and we are pleased that we have people not connected with church to enable these groups.

In the autumn of 2022, we decided to lay down our Messy Church. We felt that we had got the right model but perhaps not the right day or time. We have a team who go into schools offering Open the Book and this has resulted in visits to the Church by Year 1 and a deepening of relationships with the schools involved.

We held a really successful community afternoon tea for the King's coronation. Following this we recognised that we had a real ministry for hospitality and have decided that we will put on more events during the coming year.

The Wesley Orphan House Trust (WOHT)

The Trust derives its income from ground rent from the site of the former 'Orphan House' on Northumberland Street in Newcastle upon Tyne. The trust also receives a small sum from investments.

The Trust budgets to have approximately £25,000 available annually for grants and favours work with children, the vulnerable, for education purposes and property works.

In 2022/2023 a total of ten grants were made. Four were rolling grants over either three or five years: Action for Children, Together Mission NE, Wesley Study Centre, Grace Place (West Harton Shop in South Shields). The other grants were to Blaydon Methodist Church, Shieldfield Art Works @ The Holy Biscuit, Prudhoe Methodist Church, Men's Shed (Trinity Gosforth), FACT (Fighting All Cancers Together) and Lemington Methodist Church.

These grants totalled £19,485.

During the year, we have opened an on-line presence with a web page linked to the Newcastle Central and East Circuit website. See [Wesley Orphan House Trust - Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit \(newcastlecentralmethodist.org.uk\)](https://www.wesleyorphanhousetrust.org.uk). Plans are in hand to further extend our reach via a link from the website of the Newcastle upon Tyne District. We hope this will increase our visibility and bring further grant applications for consideration.

An application form and written guidance are available from the Secretary (woht@brunswickmethodist.org.uk) or from our website.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Hand in Hand Project

Hand in Hand has two clubs, one in Wallsend and one in Heaton

Wallsend

Hand in Hand meets weekly on a Tuesday in Trinity Methodist Church, Wallsend. The aim is to reduce and prevent loneliness and social isolation in older people. There are 23 members with an average of 18 attending weekly.

Each week our members are welcomed with a cup of tea and then enjoy a two-course home cooked traditional lunch. This is followed by a wide range of activities including reminiscing, quizzes, slide shows, games, chair exercises and crafts.

The kitchen team provides good quality food every week. The menu is varied and nutritious, and the feedback from our members is always enthusiastic. For those who come, it is something to look forward to during the week, a reason to get dressed and go out. It is an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new friendships. It is a time to relax and have fun, to have a laugh with friends and forget everyday fears and worries. It's a community whose members care for and support one another. So, as you can imagine the club is greatly valued by all the members and we are regularly told how much we are appreciated.

All this couldn't be done of course without the dedicated help of our volunteers and two paid staff members, the Co-Ordinator and Cook.

With the cost of living rising, we know we cannot cover costs with what members pay each week and we rely on grants. Hadrian House Trust gave us £1,000 and the circuit has agreed to give us a grant of £5,000 for the year 2023–2024. This generous act, along with our own fundraising, will enable us to continue to offer a much-needed service.

Heaton

Hand in Hand continues to meet in Christ Church and is run by two retired Salvation Army officers who work hard to create a welcoming atmosphere.

The number attending is fairly constant and averages 14. They enjoy quizzes, talks and photograph afternoons. Once a month they have a hot lunch.

Although the club has been made exceedingly welcome in Christ Church, some weeks it has been too cold. We are therefore seeking a new place to meet for Autumn 2023.

Presence Project, Walker

I have been able to develop a relationship with Treetops village supported living accommodation. Together with several volunteers from Walker Parish Church, I have been hosting a weekly drop-in coffee morning in Treetops for several months. The aim is to be a welcoming space for anyone in the community, recognising the lack of gathering spaces in the area. There are regular attenders from Treetops and the wider community and it is beginning to attract several other service providers who know they will be able to meet members of the community on a Wednesday morning. Building trust and relationships in this context has proven to be slow work, however the team of volunteers are developing consistent relationships and we are beginning to hear more of peoples' stories and to see people connect.

It has become apparent that exploring ways of encountering and connecting with others and God in new and neutral spaces is complex as a lone worker. The role may be funded by the church but it is by no means understood or supported by it.

In discussion with the Treetops manager, there is clear interest in providing a chaplaincy service to the residents, who are more vulnerable, housebound, and experiencing significant changes in their lives. Our weekly presence, in conjunction with a chaplaincy service, offers several ways of being with the community. I have also discussed with the manager and several residents the possibility of holding a short service of worship/reflection around key times of the year.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Partnership working has proven to be essential for me in a new community. I have developed strong links with Lifting Neighbourhoods Together (LNT), a 5-year project run by Community Renewal in conjunction with Building Futures East. I have been running a wellbeing group with LNT for some months. This has given me the opportunity to journey with a group, getting to know their stories and build deeper relationships.

I meet several of the women from the wellbeing group on a 1:1 basis for deeper conversations, discipleship/pastoral support. There are several other groups including addiction support and mental health which I am loosely connected to.

From September 2023, following two years of renting a small room in Pottery Bank Community Centre, the Presence Steering Group has reached a joint decision to stop paying for the use of the room. This decision represents a move away from the original job description by bringing an end to the formal agreement to have a community pioneer presence in Pottery Bank. It was agreed that paying for an underused room was not a good use of resources. I will continue to stay in touch with the Community Centre, meeting their new staff team and exploring opportunities for joint working.

Methodist Women in Britain

The twice a year retreats at Minsteracres continue to be highlights of the MWiB calendar. The MWiB always feel warmly welcomed and have been told that 'the place comes alive' when they visit as singing with gusto is the order of the day.

A well-attended Away Day to Newbiggin-by-the-Sea in September 2022 was a good time of fellowship, incorporating a service and craft activity.

Each November the MWiB hold their annual service to commission their new President, followed by a faith lunch, and on 25th November 2022 Rev. Stephen Lindridge was the preacher, as he had been the previous year too.

During the year £14,695.73 was raised for the President's project, Children's Cancer North, a slight increase on the amount raised the previous year for the Knitted Knockers charity.

Unfortunately, nobody has 'stepped into the shoes' of Margaret Wingfield, former editor of the MWiB magazine, and therefore no magazines have been produced in the last two years.

Shieldfield Art Works @ The Holy Biscuit

We have been established and working in Shieldfield for 13 years; committed to being here long term and supporting this community. Most of our participants are long-term and short-term residents of Shieldfield, but we also work with people from across the city. Anyone is welcome, whether or not they live in Shieldfield. Between September 2022 and August 2023 we supported 5,436 people. We measure success by talking to participants and collecting data before and after each activity. We collect data and feedback from all of our groups, including postcode data, and ask what activities/topics participants would like to cover in future. Recently, this has informed planning for the Craft Action Collective activity.

Our work has connected isolated people. One Shieldfield Grower said "Growing here has connected me with people in the neighbourhood I otherwise would never have met. It's not just the plants that are growing."

After surveying 63 individuals, 100% of participants in Shieldfield Grows and Craft Action Collective and 95% of participants in Painting for Fun agreed somewhat or strongly that these groups have increased their connection with others. 94% of participants said that being part of the 100 People project has increased their level of connection with others in the Shieldfield community.

Our work has built creative collective agency, improving mental wellbeing, confidence and collective activism. One Craft Action Collective participant said "I have found the workshops so welcoming, gently challenging and personally nurturing."

After surveying 63 individuals, 100% of participants in Shieldfield Grows, Craft Action Collective and Painting for Fun agreed somewhat or strongly that these groups have had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

100% of people attending the Breaking Through to Freedom exhibition said that it helped them see the value of the creative process as a way to deal with trauma and help us move on.

We have engaged with 3,303 people through arts activity and exhibitions. Our work has improved access to the arts, creating a space where everyone feels they can participate and they have a voice. One co-creator of the 100 People project (an experimental approach to film-making which has created a multi-voiced portrait of Shieldfield) said "being part of this has given me a sense of belonging... like an adopted family. It's made me aware that everyone has something to contribute."

Our work has given space for dialogue and debate connected with insufficiently recognised local issues like the housing crisis; the impact of gentrification on Shieldfield; growing food and climate change; telling stories with the people of Shieldfield.

At Craft Action Collective: 67% of people agreed somewhat or strongly that it has increased their awareness of social action issues and 56% of people agreed somewhat or strongly that the sessions have inspired them to make positive change in their own community.

At our SAW Reflects day on friendship 67% of participants said that it gave them ideas for practical ways in how friendship can speak into and tackle loneliness.

87% of people attending the Breaking Through to Freedom exhibition said that it helped them to spot abuse and to be better at supporting friends or family who find themselves in this situation.

We have engaged with 289 people through our gardening activity. This facilitates exercise (through planting, digging, harvesting) and being engaged in group activity and regularly being in nature benefits mental health. The shared activity of gardening encourages conversation without relying too much on a high level of spoken English. One of our Shieldfield Growers said "I have seen people from other countries who have been rather introverted when they just arrived, gradually come out of themselves and blossom like the flowers."

Over five 'SAW Reflects' events have been held since January 2023 engaging with 106 people. These days allowed participants to think more deeply around the topic of friendship, with 100% of participants saying that they engaged with the Christian themes during the event. One participant said "It's encouraging to reflect on the goodness of friendship, that it's something we are made for and to reflect on good friendships I have had and still have." Another visitor to our Friendship exhibition stated "I appreciated the thinking behind the exhibition and the questions it raises."

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Income for the year ended 31 August 2023 totaled £818,704 (2022: £706,328) resulting in a surplus for the year of £150,383 (2022: Deficit £103,718). Funds totaled £1,977,702 at the year end, of which £12,041 are restricted funds, which are held for special purpose of The Holy Biscuit, and £2,149 are endowment funds. Unrestricted reserves total £441,121 which includes those held for special purpose of £54,208 The Holy Biscuit, £2,107 Hand in hand and £165 Methodist Women in Britain. Designated funds at the end of the year amounted to £1,522,391.

Reserves policy - general funds

The definition of reserves is: "income which becomes available to the charity and is to be expended at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the charity's objects, but which is not yet spent, committed or designated." The free reserves of the charity therefore exclude endowments, restricted funds, designated funds and funds already invested in fixed assets. Free reserves of the charity at the year end amounted to £75,056.

The reserves policy for the general and manse funds of the Circuit agreed by the trustees is to hold the equivalent of the relevant annual expenditure, plus an estimate of any known fluctuations. These reserves are held in the Central Finance Board deposit account. The unrestricted funds are currently below the policy, the Circuit Managing Trustees are concerned about this and mindful to address the situation as soon as possible. There are plans to balance the budget over the following two or three years and then start to re-build reserves. Should there be a funding crisis then the Managing Trustees would make an appeal to the Local Churches.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The charity's treasurers of the Circuit Funds are the lay Circuit Stewards. Of the Managing Trustees listed previously, all are lay people excepting the fourteen ministerial staff, two of whom are retired; one is Principal of St John's College Durham, one is chaplain at Pilgrims Court Methodist Homes Jesmond. Circuit meetings are generally held three times a year and include representatives of all the Societies (local churches) and projects in the Circuit. The Superintendent Minister (who supervises the work of the other Ministers in the Circuit) reports to this meeting as do the Circuit Stewards.

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of The Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which The Methodist Church acts. The constitution practice and discipline of The Methodist Church (2019 edition) together with The Deed of Union (Act of 1929 adopted 1932) govern the activities of the Circuit.

In general, The Methodist Church is excepted from the need to register as a charity by the combined effects of Section 46(4) (A) of the Charities Act 1993 and Paragraph 4(2) (C) of the Charities (exception from registration) Regulations 1996 as amended by Statutory Instrument 2014 No 242. The Circuit, however, is a separate Registered Charity, number 1134265, in England and Wales.

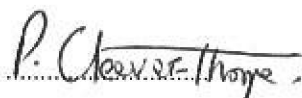
The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on the legal and administration pages. The treasurers (Circuit Stewards) are appointed annually by the Circuit Meeting and the Managing Trustees are appointed either by: (a) the Societies of which they are members; (b) the Preachers' Meeting; or (c) by being ex-officio (Ministers in good standing or holding a District or Connexional Office or duly appointed Lay Workers). In practice, up to seven Circuit Stewards may be appointed who serve, generally, for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6.

The principal address of the Circuit's auditors, bankers, solicitors and other advisors are given as part of the reference and administrative details.

The Circuit Stewards, acting as Treasurers, are responsible for the detailed examination of the Financial Statements and for recommending their adoption by the Circuit Meeting. One of their number is designated 'Treasurer' and her main role is to manage the finances of the Circuit, assisted by the Circuit Accounts Administrator.

The Circuit is one of 12 of the Newcastle District and has 10 Local Churches [12 premises], of which 5 are Local Ecumenical Partnerships. The Circuit also has one other preaching place and one other set of premises that are used for 'fresh expressions of Church' - Shieldfield Art Works @ The Holy Biscuit, and has a 'presence' in Walker at The Pottery Bank Community Centre. They are contactable via the principal address of the Circuit. Funds are transferred to the Circuit on a regular basis to meet the commitments to the District and the upkeep of the Circuit.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Rev P Cleever-Thorpe (chair) - Trustee

Dated:13.3.24

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Newcastle Central and East Circuit of the Methodist Church (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

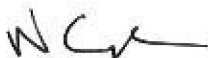
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Nicholas Cunningham FCCA
Robson Laidler Accountants Limited
Fernwood House
Fernwood Road
Jesmond
Newcastle Upon Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE2 1TJ

Dated: 19.3.24.....

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Current financial year

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Endowment funds 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Income and endowments from:</u> | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 476,758 | 240,704 | - | 717,462 | 541,663 |
| Other trading activities | 3 | 6,224 | - | - | 6,224 | 7,400 |
| Investments | 4 | 28,322 | 66,632 | 64 | 95,018 | 49,486 |
| Other income | 5 | - | - | - | - | 107,779 |
| Total income and endowments | | 511,304 | 307,336 | 64 | 818,704 | 706,328 |
| <u>Expenditure on:</u> | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 6 | 15 | - | 6 | 21 | - |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 599,235 | 32,982 | - | 632,217 | 811,244 |
| Other | | - | 3,878 | - | 3,878 | 118 |
| Total resources expended | | 599,250 | 36,860 | 6 | 636,116 | 811,362 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | (217) | (31,929) | (59) | (32,205) | 1,316 |
| Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers | | (88,163) | 238,547 | (1) | 150,383 | (103,718) |
| Gross transfers between funds | | 1,598,303 | (1,598,179) | (124) | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | 1,510,140 | (1,359,632) | (125) | 150,383 | (103,718) |
| Fund balances at 1 September 2022 | | 453,372 | 1,371,673 | 2,274 | 1,827,319 | 1,931,037 |
| Fund balances at 31 August 2023 | | 1,963,512 | 12,041 | 2,149 | 1,977,702 | 1,827,319 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Prior financial year

| | | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ | Restricted funds 2022 £ | Endowment funds 2022 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Notes | | | | |
| <u>Income and endowments from:</u> | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 501,989 | 39,674 | - | 541,663 |
| Other trading activities | 3 | 7,400 | - | - | 7,400 |
| Investments | 4 | 26,684 | 22,743 | 59 | 49,486 |
| Other income | 5 | - | 107,779 | - | 107,779 |
| Total income and endowments | | 536,073 | 170,196 | 59 | 706,328 |
| <u>Expenditure on:</u> | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 601,040 | 210,204 | - | 811,244 |
| Other | | 16 | 12 | 90 | 118 |
| Total resources expended | | 601,056 | 210,216 | 90 | 811,362 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | (342) | 1,828 | (170) | 1,316 |
| Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers | | (65,325) | (38,192) | (201) | (103,718) |
| Gross transfers between funds | | 56,809 | (56,809) | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (8,516) | (95,001) | (201) | (103,718) |
| Fund balances at 1 September 2021 | | 461,888 | 1,466,674 | 2,475 | 1,931,037 |
| Fund balances at 31 August 2022 | | 453,372 | 1,371,673 | 2,274 | 1,827,319 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £ | £ | 2022 £ | £ |
|--|-------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | | 309,585 | | 313,250 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 17,063 | | 25,638 | |
| Investments | 15 | 727,234 | | 759,444 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 929,594 | | 737,422 | |
| | | <u>1,673,891</u> | | <u>1,522,504</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 16 | <u>(5,774)</u> | | <u>(6,875)</u> | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,668,117</u> | | <u>1,515,629</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | <u>1,977,702</u> | | <u>1,828,879</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 17 | | - | | (1,560) |
| Net assets | | | <u><u>1,977,702</u></u> | | <u><u>1,827,319</u></u> |
| Capital funds | | | | | |
| Endowment funds - general | 20 | | 2,149 | | 2,274 |
| Income funds | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 21 | | 12,041 | | 1,371,673 |
| <u>Unrestricted funds</u> | | | | | |
| Designated funds | 19 | 1,522,391 | | - | |
| General unrestricted funds | | <u>441,121</u> | | <u>453,372</u> | |
| | | | <u>1,963,512</u> | | <u>453,372</u> |
| | | | <u><u>1,977,702</u></u> | | <u><u>1,827,319</u></u> |

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13th March, 2024

P. Cleever-Thorpe

Rev P Cleever-Thorpe (chair) - Trustee

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £ | £ | 2022 £ | £ |
|---|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | |
| Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations | 27 | | 100,446 | | (259,273) |
| Investing activities | | | | | |
| Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets | | - | | 110,029 | |
| Proceeds from disposal of investments | | 5 | | (746,006) | |
| Investment income received | | 95,018 | | 49,486 | |
| Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities | | | 95,023 | | (586,491) |
| Financing activities | | | | | |
| Payment of obligations under finance leases | | (3,297) | | (1,413) | |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | | (3,297) | | (1,413) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | | 192,172 | | (847,177) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 737,422 | | 1,584,599 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | | | 929,594 | | 737,422 |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Newcastle Central and East Circuit of the Methodist Church is a unincorporated charity (charity number 1134265).

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Freehold land and buildings | straight line over 100 years |
| Computers | straight line over 3 years |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to net income/(expenditure) for the year so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts | - | - | - | 1,668 | - | 1,668 |
| Assessments | 363,123 | - | 363,123 | 393,086 | - | 393,086 |
| Grants receivable | 10,000 | 2,815 | 12,815 | 18,730 | - | 18,730 |
| Administration | 84,454 | 15,980 | 100,434 | 56,672 | 17,577 | 74,249 |
| Other | 19,181 | 221,909 | 241,090 | 31,833 | 22,097 | 53,930 |
| | <u>476,758</u> | <u>240,704</u> | <u>717,462</u> | <u>501,989</u> | <u>39,674</u> | <u>541,663</u> |

Other

Included in other donations and legacies are the net proceeds of £221,909 from the sale of Westmoor Methodist Church.

3 Other trading activities

| | Other trading activities 2023 £ | Other trading activities 2022 £ |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Books & telephone income | 5,996 | 5,413 |
| Sundry income | 228 | 1,987 |
| | <u>6,224</u> | <u>7,400</u> |

4 Investments

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds general | Total | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Rental income | 25,313 | 20,020 | - | 45,333 | 43,853 |
| Income from unlisted investments | - | 22,178 | - | 22,178 | - |
| Interest receivable | 3,009 | 24,434 | 64 | 27,507 | 5,633 |
| | <u>28,322</u> | <u>66,632</u> | <u>64</u> | <u>95,018</u> | <u>49,486</u> |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Other income

| | Total | Restricted funds |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
| Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets | - | 107,779 |

6 Raising funds

| | Unrestricted funds | Endowment funds general | Total | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
| <u>Investment management</u> | 15 | 6 | 21 | - |
| | <u>15</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>-</u> |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 Charitable activities

| | Charitable activities 2023 £ | Charitable activities 2022 £ |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Staff costs | 326,260 | 484,218 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 3,665 | 5,997 |
| Gifts and donations | 628 | 1,268 |
| Assessments | 98,290 | 103,524 |
| Travel | 13,786 | 10,548 |
| Repairs and property costs | 66,761 | 55,164 |
| Connexional funds | 376 | - |
| Pulpit supply | 2,025 | 1,134 |
| The Holy Biscuit costs | 78,548 | 109,015 |
| Hand in Hand costs | 8,639 | 7,411 |
| | <u>598,978</u> | <u>778,279</u> |
| Grant funding of activities (see note 8) | 12,652 | 6,300 |
| Share of support costs (see note 9) | 15,662 | 15,323 |
| Share of governance costs (see note 9) | 4,925 | 11,342 |
| | <u>632,217</u> | <u>811,244</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 599,235 | 601,040 |
| Restricted funds | 32,982 | 210,204 |
| | <u>632,217</u> | <u>811,244</u> |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Grants payable

| | Charitable activities 2023 £ | Charitable activities 2022 £ |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Grants to institutions: | | |
| SAW THB | - | 2,500 |
| Trinity Christian Community Centre | 375 | 3,000 |
| MINE | 7,143 | 300 |
| Newcastle City Centre Chaplaincy | - | 500 |
| Brunswick Methodist Church | 4,934 | - |
| Rob Wylie | 200 | - |
| | <u>12,652</u> | <u>6,300</u> |

9 Support costs

| | Support costs £ | Governance costs £ | 2023 £ | Support costs £ | Governance costs £ | 2022 £ |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Telephone | 8,663 | - | 8,663 | 10,357 | - | 10,357 |
| Postage & stationery | 4,666 | - | 4,666 | 3,378 | - | 3,378 |
| Sundries | 2,333 | - | 2,333 | 1,588 | - | 1,588 |
| Independent examiner's fees | - | 4,452 | 4,452 | - | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Professional fees | - | 473 | 473 | - | 7,142 | 7,142 |
| | <u>15,662</u> | <u>4,925</u> | <u>20,587</u> | <u>15,323</u> | <u>11,342</u> | <u>26,665</u> |
| Analysed between Charitable activities | <u>15,662</u> | <u>4,925</u> | <u>20,587</u> | <u>15,323</u> | <u>11,342</u> | <u>26,665</u> |

10 Trustees

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Trustees expenses

The aggregate amount of travelling and subsistence expenses reimbursed to the trustees during the year was £13,596 (2022: £12,238). The number of persons reimbursed was 9 (2022: 9). During the year trustees' indemnity insurance was provided of £224 (2022: £245).

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2023 Number | 2022 Number |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Direct charitable expenditure | 9 | 12 |
| Management and admin of the charity | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 11 | 14 |

Employment costs

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wages and salaries | 250,987 | 233,319 |
| Social security costs | 20,744 | 17,402 |
| Other pension costs | 54,529 | 233,497 |
| | 326,260 | 484,218 |

The key management personnel of the charity include the circuit stewards, the superintendent, other ministers and the circuit services manager who are all managing trustees. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel for the year were £34,788 (2022: £35,711).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings | Computers | Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 366,467 | 17,827 | 384,294 |
| Disposals | - | (7,000) | (7,000) |
| At 31 August 2023 | 366,467 | 10,827 | 377,294 |
| Depreciation and impairment | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 53,217 | 17,827 | 71,044 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 3,665 | - | 3,665 |
| Eliminated in respect of disposals | - | (7,000) | (7,000) |
| At 31 August 2023 | 56,882 | 10,827 | 67,709 |
| Carrying amount | | | |
| At 31 August 2023 | 309,585 | - | 309,585 |
| At 31 August 2022 | 313,250 | - | 313,250 |

14 Debtors

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Other debtors | 7,593 | 2,529 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 9,470 | 23,109 |
| | 17,063 | 25,638 |

15 Current asset investments

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Unlisted investments | 727,234 | 759,444 |

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Notes | £ | £ |
| Obligations under finance leases | - | 1,737 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 5,774 | 5,138 |
| | 5,774 | 6,875 |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Obligations under finance leases | | - | 1,560 |

18 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Within one year | 3,593 | - |
| Between two and five years | 12,576 | - |
| | 16,169 | - |

19 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 £ | Transfers £ | Balance at 31 August 2023 £ |
|---------------|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Property Fund | - | 1,522,391 | 1,522,391 |
| | - | 1,522,391 | 1,522,391 |

The Property Fund

This fund represents funds relating to the sale, letting or other disposition of land which is Circuit property. The authority to sanction schemes for the application of capital money in the fund rests with the Circuit meeting, subject to approval by the Synod. The fund is represented by investments and or cash.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Endowment funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 | Incoming resources | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 31 August 2023 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | Resources expended | Transfers | Revaluations gains and losses | £ |
| Permanent endowments | | | | | | |
| The Susannah Gibson memorial fund | 496 | 13 | (1) | - | 10 | 518 |
| WR Dixon gift | 1,778 | 51 | (5) | (124) | (69) | 1,631 |
| | <u>2,274</u> | <u>64</u> | <u>(6)</u> | <u>(124)</u> | <u>(59)</u> | <u>2,149</u> |

21 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 | Incoming resources | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 31 August 2023 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | Resources expended | Transfers | Revaluations, gains and losses | £ |
| Dorris Nuttall bequest | 5 | - | - | (5) | - | - |
| Property Fund | 1,360,468 | 288,541 | (18,906) | (1,598,174) | (31,929) | - |
| Shieldfield Arftworks | 11,200 | 18,795 | (17,954) | - | - | 12,041 |
| | <u>1,371,673</u> | <u>307,336</u> | <u>(36,860)</u> | <u>(1,598,179)</u> | <u>(31,929)</u> | <u>12,041</u> |

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 | Restricted funds 2023 | Endowment funds 2023 | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by: | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 309,585 | - | - | 309,585 | 313,250 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 1,653,927 | 12,041 | 2,149 | 1,668,117 | 1,515,629 |
| Long term liabilities | - | - | - | - | (1,560) |
| | <u>1,963,512</u> | <u>12,041</u> | <u>2,149</u> | <u>1,977,702</u> | <u>1,827,319</u> |

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

23 Unrestricted funds

General Funds

These are funds that are available to be spent for any purpose by the charity.

Methodist Women in Britain

The Methodist Women in Britain, previously known as The Network Group and sometimes referred to as the Circuit Network, is a fellowship aimed at women of all ages within the church, who support each other and raise funds each year for 'the Easter offering', a Connexionally designated charity of the year. There are pastoral groups, fellowships and social activities. A small amount of the group's income is used for administrative costs, but most money is handed on to support the wider church.

Hand in Hand

A project was founded more than ten years ago by the former Heaton and Wallsend Circuit, based at Trinity Church Wallsend, serving the elderly and isolated in Wallsend. As time passed, the project expanded and provided lunch clubs, reminiscence and activity clubs as well as a befriending and visiting in homes service in Wallsend, Heaton, Longbenton and other places in North Tyneside. About seven years ago the project grew rapidly because of Lottery grant funding. Sadly when the grant finished in 2017, the management committee was unable to find a follow on funder and the project shrank significantly and now only operates from Trinity and Heaton Methodist Churches. Consequently, Hand in Hand has returned to be completely controlled by the Circuit with a small management group chaired by Rev'd Gavin Hume and legacy funds are being used to ensure that there are high quality lunch and activity clubs.

Shieldfield Art Works At The Holy Biscuit

Shieldfield Methodist Church closed as Local Church or Society, and in about 2006 the premises were rented to various organisations including a local radio station. By 2009 there was a proposal to sell the site but Rev'd Rob Hawkins in consultation with local businessman Ramy Zac, proposed a radical suggestion to develop and arts expression of Church, a form of Fresh Expressions of Church, using the premises. Mr Zac said that he would carry out, at his expense, a major refurbishment and Rob would set up the organisation of what quickly became known as The Holy Biscuit - it being opposite the Biscuit Factory art gallery. Until recently it has operated as a separate fund, but it is now felt that it should be an internal organisation of the Circuit, which 'owns' it.

The project has grown and now receives significant grants from the Methodist Connexional grants committee and is seen as an integral part of the arts scene in Newcastle. There are links to both universities in Newcastle and the one in Sunderland as well as the Ouseburn arts community. The Holy Biscuit is now reaching out to the local community, schools and other churches in Shieldfield. As well as providing gallery space, the premises are well used, for example, painting for fun (working with those who have health problems), schools work and church with a difference mid-week services.

The Walker Benevolent Fund

This fund represents funds that have been set aside for use at the discretion of the Deacon and had been exhausted during the year.

The Deacon Fund

This fund represents Model Trust funds transferred from the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church, the capital and income from which can be used at the discretion of the Deacon.

The Dixon bequests

This fund represents Model Trust funds transferred from the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church, the income from which can be used at the discretion of the Deacon and capital may be used with certain restrictions.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

24 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

25 Restricted and endowment funds

Restricted Funds

The Doris Nuttal bequest

This fund represents funds donated to the Circuit, in practice used to provide for the repair and refurbishment of the Trinity Christian Community Centre. The fund is held in cash.

The Property Fund

This fund represents funds relating to the sale, letting or other disposition of land which is Circuit property. The authority to sanction schemes for the application of capital money in the fund rests with the Circuit meeting, subject to approval by the Synod. The fund is represented by investments and or cash.

Shieldfield Art Works At The Holy Biscuit

Shieldfield Methodist Church closed as Local Church or Society, and in about 2006 the premises were rented to various organisations including a local radio station. By 2009 there was a proposal to sell the site but Rev'd Rob Hawkins in consultation with local businessman Ramy Zac, proposed a radical suggestion to develop and arts expression of Church, a form of Fresh Expressions of Church, using the premises. Mr Zac said that he would carry out, at his expense, a major refurbishment and Rob would set up the organisation of what quickly became known as The Holy Biscuit - it being opposite the Biscuit Factory art gallery. Until recently it has operated as a separate fund, but it is now felt that it should be an internal organisation of the Circuit, which 'owns' it.

The project has grown and now receives significant grants, some of which are restricted, from the Methodist Connexional grants committee and is seen as an integral part of the arts scene in Newcastle. There are links to both universities in Newcastle and the one in Sunderland as well as the Ouseburn arts community. The Holy Biscuit is now reaching out to the local community, schools and other churches in Shieldfield. As well as providing gallery space, the premises are well used, for example, painting for fun (working with those who have health problems), schools work and church with a difference mid-week services.

Endowment Funds

The Susannah Gibson Memorial Fund

This fund represents monies left to the church in 1880 by the late Susannah Gibson, the income from which can be used 'for the sustenance of Wesleyan Ministers'.

The WR Dixon Gift

This fund represents Model Trust funds transferred from the former Allen Memorial Methodist Church and is used at the discretion of the deacon.

26 Transfers

Transfers between restricted and unrestricted reserves relate to restrictions no longer applied to the Property Fund. The balance on this fund has been transferred to a designated fund for use within the Newcastle area.

THE NEWCASTLE CENTRAL AND EAST CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 27 | Cash generated from operations | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
| | Surplus/(deficit) for the year | 150,383 | (103,718) |
| | Adjustments for: | | |
| | Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (95,018) | (49,486) |
| | Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets | - | (107,779) |
| | Fair value gains and losses on investments | 32,205 | (1,316) |
| | Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 3,665 | 5,997 |
| | Movements in working capital: | | |
| | Decrease in debtors | 8,575 | 7,832 |
| | Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 636 | (10,803) |
| | Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations | 100,446 | (259,273) |
| 28 | Analysis of changes in net funds | | |
| | | At 1 September 2022 £ | Cash flows £ At 31 August 2023 £ |
| | Cash at bank and in hand | 737,422 | 192,172 929,594 |
| | Obligations under finance leases | (3,297) | 3,297 - |
| | | 734,125 | 195,469 929,594 |